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ION G. PELIVAN

Formerly Member of the Sfatul Tzarel  
(National Council of Bessarabia)

. VI .

**The Right of the Roumanians**  
to  
**Bessarabia**



SEAL OF ALEXANDER THE GOOD  
Sovereign Prince  
of Moldavia, Bessarabia and Bukovina  
1401 - 1433.

IN THE LIGHT OF  
HISTORY AND  
ETHNOGRAPHY  
AND ON THE BASIS OF  
SELF-DETERMINATION



WITH FOUR CUTS  
AND A MAP



PARIS

IMPRIMERIE DES ARTS ET DES SPORTS  
24, rue Milton, 24

1920

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A BESSARABIAN PEASANT



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A BESSARABIAN PEASANT



# THE RIGHTS OF THE ROUMANIANS TO BESSARABIA

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## CHAPTER I

### HISTORICAL RIGHTS

Bessarabia, as is well known, was part of the old principality of Moldavia until 1812, when according to a clause of the Bucarest treaty (May 16 1812 old style) which terminated the six year war with Turkey (1806-1812), Russia annexed that province to its empire.

Some Russians, however, claim that Bessarabia was taken from the Turks and not from Roumania which started into existence only on January 24 1859, when the two principalities of Moldavia and Wallachia were united into a single State.

They forget that in the XXth century, after the right of peoples to decide their own fate has been proclaimed to the world, domination over foreign territories and nations cannot possibly be founded on the right of conquest. They seem to forget also that Moldavia, of which Bessarabia was a part, while it acknowledged the suzerainty of Turkey, retained nevertheless its autonomous political and religious organisation, as well as the right to choose its princes from among its own sons. Turkish suzerainty, which proved incomparably more humane than Russian rule, implied only for Moldavia the obligation of paying a yearly tribute to Turkey. But these same Russians refuse to believe that such were the facts.

We will demonstrate the truth of our own statements without relying in any way on Roumanian testimonies. Only Russian and French testimonies will be adduced. Here are some :



1) M. P.-P. SEMENOFF-TIAN-CHANSKY, vice-president of the Russian Imperial Geographical Society, in his big and scholarly work « A complete geographical description of our country : New (Southern) Russia and The Crimea », vol. XIV, Petrograd 1910, published by A.-F. Dewrien, writes this on page 148 :

*At the end of the XIVth century, Wallachia became a vassal State under Turkish suzerainty and in 1511, after a long struggle, Moldavia met the same fate. But the two principalities succeeded in retaining their political structure, their national chiefs and their religion. The only sign that they were under Turkish suzerainty was that they had to pay a tribute.*

2) In his book on « The Roumanian provinces, Wallachia, Moldavia, Bukovina, Transylvania, Bessarabia », the great historian UBICINI writes on page 4:

*Russian Roumania is composed of the province of Bessarabia, which was also a part of Roumania and was delivered over to the Russians in 1812, through the treasonable act of Demetrius Mursi.*

3) In the « Reports of the statistical committee of Bessarabia » written by the well known Russian lawyer, A.-N. EGOUNOFF (vol. III, Kichinev, 1868), we find, on page 34, the following assertion of the historical rights of Roumania to Bessarabia :

*Up to its annexation to the Russian Empire in 1812, Bessarabia was under the same regime as Moldavia of which it was but a part. Consequently neither history nor historical documents can afford to leave Moldavia out of consideration. So, it is impossible to discuss the administration of Bessarabia up to the time of its annexation to Russia without referring to the Divan of Moldavia to which Bessarabia was submitted. There is not a single estate in Bessarabia that cannot show documents emanating from the Divan of Moldavia.*

To our days, in the actions brought before the Bessarabian courts, suitors are wont to cite decisions of the Divan, which being approved by the Moldavian princes and being issued by them in the form of diplomas (chrysobulls), according to clause 1606 of the Xth volume of the Russian civil laws cannot be set aside by our courts and thus retain their full force and value.

4) The best proof that Bessarabia never was a Turkish country but on the contrary a purely Roumanian country lies in the undoubted fact that the Russian government, when it annexed that province, was obliged to maintain its old Moldavian administrative and judiciary organisation, as well as the ancient Donici, Armenopol and Alexander Mavrocordat laws :

a) The imperial ukase (decree) of July 23 1812 (chapter III, § 1) on the organisation of the provisional Bessarabian government, rules :

*The inhabitants of Bessarabia shall retain their legislative organisation.*

(See L. A. CASSO, professor at the University of Moscow, « Byzantine law in Bessarabia », Moscow, 1907, University Press, page 5.)

b) Another imperial ukase of February 2 1813 adds :

*Suits in the law courts must be conducted according to the laws and customs of the country.*

(Ibid., page 5, and « Reports of the statistical committee of Bessarabia » written by A.-N. EGOUNOFF, page 114.)

c) A subsequent imperial ukase of May 13 1813, directed to the Governor of Bessarabia, prescribes among other things :

*Not to make any change in the administration of Bessarabia.*

(« On the working of the local Donici and Armenopoulo laws », by the great lawyer O.-J. PERGAMENT, Petrograd, 1905, page 5.)

d) That tendency to maintain in Bessarabia the *statu quo ante* is seen also in the decree of August 21 1813 on the organisation of the diocese of Kichinev and Hotin, which states :

*Local customs must be respected, in so far as they do not contradict the fundamental principles of the Russian civil and ecclesiastical law, since the Bessarabian people were allowed to retain their old Moldavian laws.*

(Ibid., page 5.)

e) Finally, on April 29 1818, the Emperor Alexander 1st put his name to a legislative act which was to prove most important for Bessarabia, the *Administrative Statute of the province of Bessarabia* (in Roumanian : *Asezemintul*).

By virtue of this fundamental act, Bessarabia received a *special organisation*, a *national constitution*, based on what professor CASSO (« Byzantine law, page 8) calls « the national character » of that province. At the head of affairs was to be a *Supreme Council* (little parliament) mostly composed of the chosen representatives of the Moldavian nation (CASSO, « Byzantine law, pp. 8-10).

According to that statute :

*The use of its local rights, privileges and laws is granted to Bessarabia by the imperial clemency, for ever.*

(Statute for the organisation of the province of Bessarabia, page 10.)



(A. NACCO, a Russian historian, in his « Study on the civil organisation of the province of Bessarabia from 1812 », Odessa, 1900, page 110.)

4) For the year 1837, « A journey of field-marshal duke of Raguse over Hungary, Transylvania and Southern Russia », Paris, 1837, vol. I, page 142) states the following undoubted facts :

Bessarabia, which is a neighbour of Moldavia from which it is separated only by the Pruth river, is *inhabited also by Wallachians of Roumanian origin.*

It is strange that Wallachia, Moldavia and Bessarabia should have remained intact with their population isolated like an oasis in the middle of that multitude of nations (1) which for centuries came pouring over Southern Europe.

5) For the year 1862, we have the testimony of the Russian staff captain A. ZASCIUK.

In his official work, which remains one of the most reliable studies on Bessarabia, « Materials for the geography and statistics of Russia » (Petrograd, 1862), M. Zasciuk states on page 151 :

The Moldavians (Roumanians) form the chief part of the population, about three fourths of the total number.

6) His statement is confirmed :

a) By the Russian geographer P.-P. SOROCA, for the year 1878, in his work on « The Geography of Bessarabia, which was approved by the minister of Public Education for the use of primary and secondary schools in Russia (Kichinev, 1878, page 80).

b) By the Russian publicist P. CRUCHEVAN, in his almanac « Bessarabia » (Moscow, 1903, page 175).

c) By the Russian writer N. LASCOFF in « Bessarabia at the time of the centenary of its annexation to Russia, 1812-1812 » (Kichinev, 1912, page 53), — and by others.

7) The fact that the Roumanian element, whatever may be the accurate percentage, forms the majority of the Bessarabian population is confirmed even by Russian scholars as for instance :

a) A. Afanasieff-Tchiujbinsky (« A journey over Southern Russia, 2nd part, *Sketches on the Dniester* », Petrograd, 1863, pp. 266 and 283);

(1) Moscovites, Bulgarians, Serbs, etc.



b) P. Batiuchkoff (« Bessarabia », Petrograd, 1892, first part, p. 171; this work was written under the auspices of the Tzar Alexander III);

c) L.-A. CASSO, a professor at the University of Moscow and formerly Minister of Public Education under the Tzar Nicolas II, (in his book on « Russia on the Danube and the organisation of the province of Bessarabia », Moscow, 1913, p. 228), etc.

8) The great Russian publicist L. TIKHOMIROFF in his work on « Political and social Russia », 2nd edition, Paris, 1886, page 41, cannot but note obvious facts :

As we advance towards the South, we come across a small territory bordering upon Roumania and not Russian in the slightest degree. The ambition of the Tzar has created there for Russia a source of international complications. The Danube at the mouth of which these districts lie flows through Slav and Austrian territory, but it has nothing in common with Russia.

Nevertheless, at the time of the last war (1877-1878), Alexander II thought it advisable to take that land from his own allies, the Roumanians, who protested bitterly against that act of injustice. If Russia should become a free country, there is very little doubt that it would at once return to the Roumanians that territory as well as a part of Bessarabia (p. 41).

9) Finally, we will conclude that review of Russian and French testimonies by a most significant quotation from a great Russian military writer, the famous general A. N. KOUROPATKINE, formerly Russian minister of war.

In his scholarly book on « The Problems of the Russian army (Petrograd, 1910) he writes :

*The Roumanian population of Bessarabia, that province annexed to the Russian Empire one hundred years ago, lives still (1910) apart from the mass of the Russian population. There can be no doubt whatever that, if at the beginning of the XIXth century the Principalities of Moldavia and Wallachia had been annexed to Russia, not only would their population have remained foreign to us, but it would have become an enemy of the Russian people and, instead of one Poland, we should have had two, to the greater detriment of Russia (p. 338)...*

*In the future, whether it is brought about by peaceful means or as a consequence of a war, the unity of the whole Roumanian nation will be accomplished once more (p. 338).*

## CHAPTER III

### RUSSIAN OFFICIAL STATISTICS AND WHAT THEY ARE WORTH

We said above that one of the most reliable official books on the statistics of Bessarabia was that of the Russian staff captain A. ZASCIUK, *Materials for the geography and statistics of Russia, collected by officers of the Russian Staff : the province of Bessarabia* (Petrograd, 1862, first and second parts).

Now this book estimates the Roumanian element at 75 % of the total population (pp. 151 and 450).

In 1897, the Russian official census sets down the total Bessarabian population as being 1.935.000 souls (N.-K. Moghileansky, *Materials for the geography and statistics of Bessarabia*, page 77) but brings down the percentage of the Roumanian element to 47,6 % and states the number of Roumanians in Bessarabia to be 920.919.

Here is the official table of national elements in Roumania according to that 1897 census on which our opponents in the Russian camp like to base their claims :

1. Great Russian.....	8,2 %
2. Ukrainians and Ruthenians.....	19,6 %
3. Poles .....	0,3 %
4. Bulgarians .....	5,3 %
5. Roumanians .....	47,6 %
6. Germans .....	3,1 %
7. Jews .....	11,8 %
8. Turks (Gagautzi).....	2,9 %
9. Others (Greeks), Armenians, Tziganes)	1,2 %

The Great Russians — and especially those holding official positions — are apt to look upon all Ukrainians and Ruthenians as Russians and therefore they claim that the total of the « Russian » population in Bessarabia reaches 27,8 %.



Unfortunately those poor Ukrainians and Ruthenians will have none of this, they resent the « great « honour » that is thus forced upon them. Moreover the Russian Academy of Sciences admitted that their tongue as well as their literature placed them in a situation of their own, quite apart from the Moscovite nation.

And it is significant that even the official census of 1897 did not venture to include both Ukrainians and Ruthenians on the one hand, Russians on the other under the same appellation.

Now the question arises : *How can Russia with its bare 8,2 % of Russian (Moscovite) population claim Bessarabia as its own?*

Even granting that the Ukrainians and Ruthenians are Russians — which ethnographically is a rank absurdity — a percentage of 27,8 % would constitute but a negligible minority, if we compare it to the 47,6 % of Roumanians. Consequently *Russia cannot possibly have any ethnic right to Bessarabia.*

But, as a matter of fact, the figures given by the census for the Great Russians (Moscovites) who form a steady and permanent element of the Bessarabian population are far superior to what the facts warrant, as we are going to show.

a) P. P. Semenoff-Tian-Chansky in his big work on « New Russia and the Crimea », vol. XIV, quoted above, says on page 189-190 :

In Bessarabia, aside from *wandering pedlars* who gather round the towns and big villages, the Moscovite (Velico-Russian) rural population, being in the minority when compared to the other Slav tribes, is to be found exclusively in separate settlements. For instance in Vilcov village live *staroobriadtzi* (Moscovites of the older rite)...

At the present day, the Moscovites—*staroobriadtzi*— have settled on the frontiers of Bessarabia, chiefly towards the South in the Ismail district, but also towards the North in the Hotin district (1). *Nevertheless the permanent Velico-Russian population belonging to the older rite does not form more than 1 1/2 % of the total population of Bessarabia.*

M. Semenoff-Tian-Chansky has nothing to say about the percentage of orthodox Velico-Russians actually settled in the country as a permanent element of its population. The reason is that such Velico-Russians are not to be found in Bessarabia.

b) The historian Lascoff in its work on « Bessarabia at the time of the centenary of its annexation to Russia, 1812-1912, a historical

(1) M. K. Ermolinsky, in Statistical information about the district of Hotin, edited by the Hotin Zemstvo, Moscow, 1886, page 121, says that, in the Hotin district, there are only two Velico-Russian villages, Grubna and Belousova, with 242 families.

and statistical study on Bessarabia », Kichinev, 1912, writes on page 57 :

Among the Velico-Russians (Moscovites) of the province of Bessarabia, a very large number hold government positions or are officers in the army. The others live in settlements of their own in villages and towns. The rural Velico-Russian population of Bessarabia is mostly formed by *raskonics* (Velico-Russians of the older rite), whose ancestors fled from Russia to escape persecution against the *Staroobriadtzi*, and by people who broke away from the bondage in which they were held by the lords or finally men who escaped from military service.

c) In the book of M. N.-K. MOGHILEANSKY, « Materials for the geography and statistics of Bessarabia » (Kichinev, 1913) we find on page 79 the following statement :

Velico-Russians live chiefly in the districts of Kichinev (33.339), Ismail (30.235) and Ackerman (25.523).

This makes a total of 89.097 souls.

Supposing that in the other districts another 10 to 11.000 Velico-Russians might be found, we should obtain for the whole of Bessarabia a total of 100.000 Velico-Russians for the year 1897, that is about 5 % of the total population.

If we put together the statements above quoted from Semenoff-Tian-Chansky, Lascoff and Moghileansky, we arrive at the following conclusions :

a) All the Velico-Russians who have definitively settled in the country or who have not, orthodox or followers of the older rite (*staroobriadtzi*), when taken together *did not exceed in 1897 5 % of the total Bessarabian population.*

b) In 1897, the Velico-Russian element actually settled in the country did not surpass 1 1/2 %.

c) The Velico-Russians who did not constitute a permanent element, officers and soldiers, Government officials, pedlars, etc., constitute 3 1/2 % of the total population.

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With regards the reliability of official statistics in Bessarabia, it will be enough to note the remark of professor L.-A. Casso, formerly minister of Public Education in Russia, in his scholarly work



on « Russia along the Danube » (Moscow, 1913), written on the occasion of the centenary of the annexation of Bessarabia to Russia :

Even to-day, in 1913, the informations which we receive from the central administration about that far away border province are not always accurate. *The Russian Year-Book for 1910*, for instance, which is published by the central committee on statistics at the ministry of the Interior, while mentioning the different nationalities of Bessarabia finds no room for the Moldavian nationality, although it constitutes more than half of the total population of Bessarabia.

That astounding *inaccuracy* of the official statistical data sent by Russian officials in Bessarabia to the ministry of the Interior at Petrograd, where the very existence of the Moldavian element of Bessarabia passed unmentioned, shows clearly what little faith can be placed in the information given by Russian official sources.

## CHAPTER IV

### THE PRINCIPLE OF SELF-DETERMINATION

On the basis of the principle of self-determination proclaimed by the great Russian revolution as well as by President Wilson, the Bessarabian population through the various administrative, judiciary, professional bodies of the province expressed on repeated occasions the resolute wish of the country to unite with Roumania, its mother-country.

But the union with Roumania could be proclaimed only by a *national assembly*, truly representative of all Bessarabia with its various nationalities. The *Sfatul Tsarei* was that assembly, and it spoke in the name of all Bessarabians when it proclaimed first the conditional union, then the unconditional union with Roumania.

A) This is the first decision passed by the *Sfatul Tsarei* on March 27 (9 IV 1898) :

In the name of the people of Bessarabia, the *Sfatul Tsarei* declares : The Moldavian Democratic Republic (Bessarabia)—such as it is constituted by the land extending between the Pruth, the Dniester, the Danube, the Black Sea and the frontiers which were formerly common with Austria—torn by Russia, a hundred years ago, from old Moldavia—now by virtue of its historical rights and of its national rights, on the basis of the principle that the people alone can decide their own fate, unites from this day on and for ever with its mother-country, Roumania.

The chief conditions which were inserted in the Act of Union were these:

1) The *Sfatul Tsarei* to solve in its own way the question of the agrarian reform in Bessarabia.

2) Bessarabia to retain its provincial autonomy, its own laws and local organisations.

When a solution had been found for the agrarian question, which constituted the most important reservation embodied in the Act of March 27 1918, the *Sfatul Tsarei* withdrew all the other conditions stipulated in that act.



B) Here is the decision passed by the Sfatul Tsarei, on November 27 1918 (old style) :

Following on the union with Roumania, their mother-country of Bukovina, Transylvania, the Banat and the territories of Hungary inhabited by Roumanians, between the Danube and the Tissa rivers, the Sfatul Tsarei declares that Bessarabia withdraws the conditions of union, as stipulated in the Act of March 27 1918, being certain that, in the Roumania of all Roumanians, the purely democratic regime is ensured for ever.

On the eve of the meeting of the Roumanian Constituent Assembly, which will be elected by universal suffrage and will solve the agrarian question according to the needs and the requirements of the people, the Sfatul Tsarei declares null and void the other conditions mentioned in the Act of Union of March 27 1917, and proclaims the unconditional union of Bessarabia with Roumania, its mother-country.

C) Finally, the Bessarabian people showed its determination to be united with Roumania once more at the polls of November 2-5 1919 when it voted for members of the future Constituent Assembly of Greater Roumania.

The elections were held under a regime of full liberty — as was solemnly acknowledged by the representatives of national minorities in the Chamber of Deputies as well as in the Senate — on the basis of universal, equal, direct and secret suffrage.

The following table, given by the *Official Gazette*, n° 164, of November 8 1919 clearly shows the result of the elections held in Bessarabia on that occasion.

We see by that table that 72,8 % of the total number of registered electors took part in the vote, that is to say an overwhelming majority of the Bessarabian population.

Those elections, which proved to be *the best of plebiscites*, made it as clear as daylight to everybody that Bessarabia is absolutely determined to be united with Roumania.

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Out of the 90 deputies returned to the House of representatives, 78 are Roumanians and 12 belong to the national minorities.



LASHING MOLDAVIANS (ROUMANIANS) WITH THE RUSSIAN KNOT



# RESULTS OF THE ELECTIONS HELD IN BESSARABIA ON NOVEMBER 2-5 1920

## FOR MEMBERS OF THE FUTURE ROUMANIAN CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY

CONSTITUENT CIES	Number of members	Number of party tickets	Registered electors	Electors who took part in the vote	Votes annulled	Electors who stayed away from the polls	% of electors who did not vote	% of votes cast
BALTI	12	3	59 190	44 791	8 832	14 399	24,3	74,0
CAHUL	7	2	25 561	20 979	1 303	4 582	17,9	82,2
HOTIN	10	1	70 600	49 175	5 367	21 425	33,4	68,7
ORHEI	11	2	52 914	34 238	5 220	18 676	35,8	64,2
SOROCA	12	5	57 774	41 591	2 378	16 175	27,9	71,9
TIGHINA (Bender)	9	2	54 329	39 920	2 278	14 409	26,5	73,2
ISMAIL	5	1	46 209	31 764	2 412	14 445	31,2	68,7
CETATEA-ALBA (Akerman)	12	3	71 844	58 915	3 628	12 929	17,4	82,3
KICHINEW	12	5	62 458	40 215	2 153	22 243	35,5	64,2
TOTAL	90	24	509 879	361 588	32 571	139 291	27,8	72,2



LIST OF MEMBERS OF THE ROUMANIAN CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY  
WHO REPRESENT THE NATIONAL MINORITIES OF Bessarabia

CONSTITUENCIES	NAMES OF MEMBERS	NATIONALITY	Registered electors	Electors who took part in the vote	obtained Votes
BALTZI	Arseni KARASEVICI	Russian	59 190	44 791	5 159
CAHUL	Haralamb VIZANTI	Greek	25 561	20 979	10 661
"	Théodore DONCIU	Bulgarian	"	"	10 665
HOTIN	Paul KITAIGORODSKI	Ukrainian	70 600	49 175	38 843
"	Jankel Meïlic MELICSOHN	Hebrew	"	"	39 307
ORHEI	Vasile MOUSCINSKI	Ukrainian	52 914	34 238	16 869
TIGHINA (Bender)	Nicolas STOIANOGLOU	Bulgarian	54 329	39 920	32 102
ISMAIL	Jean FOMOV	Bulgarian	46 209	31 764	28 402
CEATEA-ALBA (Ackerman)	Daniel BITTAÛ	German	71 844	58 915	28 564
"	Théodore DIMOV	Bulgarian	"	"	28 427
"	Daniel ERDMANN	German	"	"	28 357
"	Johanes GHERSTENBERGER	"	"	"	14 611

## CHAPTER V

### CONCLUSION

The facts above stated lead to but one conclusion, and this conclusion cannot be favourable to Russia.

1° *Historically*, Bessarabia was up to 1812 a part of Moldavia, which, while it acknowledged Turkish suzerainty, retained its full political and religious autonomy.

The right of conquest cannot be invoked in the XIXth century as justifying possession, especially as Bessarabia has in common with the conquerors neither its historical traditions, nor its language nor its culture.

2° *Ethnographically*, even should we accept the data given by Russian official statistics at their face value, and we have seen what mistake it would be, Bessarabia is a Roumanian land.

For the percentage of 8,2 % including all the Velico-Russians — those who settled in the country for good in the XIXth century (1,50%) as well as those who form an unsteady element, Government officials, military men, wandering pedlars and labourers — will never constitute but a negligible minority, when we compare them to the 47,6 % of autochthonous Roumanians.

As a matter of fact, the number of Roumanians in Bessarabia reaches at east 70 % of the total population.

3° If we look for an expression of the *national will*, we know that, on three different occasions (27 III 1918, 27 XI 1918 and 2-5 XI 1919), Bessarabia made known in an unmistakable manner its determination to be united for ever with its mother-country, Roumania.

Consequently, from whatever point of view one approaches the question, Bessarabia is a Roumanian province and can belong to no other country but Roumania.



## CHAPTER VI

### OTHER STATEMENTS MADE BY THE PANRUSSIAN PATRIOTS

In spite of what we have said above, it is still possible to meet Panrussian patriots, especially when they are of German, Polish, Jewish or Moldavian-Tatar descent, who would have us believe that *Russia is loved in Bessarabia*.

They claim in the same breath that this province which was for 106 years an object of « the most tender care » on the part of its Tzarist guardians and protectors *has turned Russian* and wants to remain *united with Russia*.

But these gentlemen forget to enlighten us on just a small point : to which Russia do they refer? Do they mean Tzarist Russia, or Bolshevik Russia, — the Russia of Denikine or the Russia of Lenine? *There is no other choice.*

#### a) LOVE FOR RUSSIA?

With regard to a supposed love of Bessarabia for Russia, we beg leave to ask just a few questions :

What could be the motives which should induce Bessarabia to love Russia, under whose tyrannical rule it suffered for 106 years (1812-1918)?

Could it be because Russia closed all the *Moldavian schools*, thus preventing any future educational development among the masses of the autochthonous people?

Or because the churches were Russianised with the consequence that the Roumanian people could no longer pray to God in its native tongue (work of archbishop Paul Lebedeff, Serafim Tchitchagof, etc.)?

Or because the use of the people's tongue was prohibited in every Government office?

Or because they closed the *national printing house* founded in 1813 by metropolitan Gabriel Banulesco, where Roumanian books were printed, with the consequence that not a single line of Roumanian could be printed any more?

Or because the *Moldavian intellectuals*, who were allowed to serve the Tzar in Poland, the Ukraine, the Caucasus, etc., were debarred from holding any Government position in Bessarabia?

Or because thousands of families of *Russian peasants*, deceived by the agents of the Minister of the Interior, were induced to leave Bessarabia to settle in the wildernesses of far-away Siberia, where on



In 1886, at Akermann, while digging for the foundations of a house, the workmen found a large marble slab which had fallen from the fortress. It bore an inscription which was successfully deciphered :

« In the year 1438 after Christ, the great gates were set up by the great christian Stephen Voevod, Prince of Moldavia, and the boyar Lutzian Herman. » Above the inscription, in the midst of foliage, appears a bull's head with a star over its forehead : such are still the arms of Moldavia.

This stone is to be seen to-day in the museum of the Odessa historical and antiquarian society. Russian historians agree that the Akermann fortress was built by the Moldavian princes.



account of the climate and other unfortunate circumstances they died like flies?

Or finally because the refuse and sweeps of Russia were brought to Bessarabia as settlers to take the place of those wretched peasants, with the hope that Bessarabia would thereby be denationalised?

On the other hand, if we turn to *Bolshevist Russia*, there is not even room for any discussion.

When the Bolshevist *tovarichtchi* (comrades) betrayed the allied cause and deserted from the Roumanian front, Bessarabia suffered too much at their hands to be able to speak of them without a feeling of horror and hatred. Those Moscovite barbarians will never be forgotten by the Bessarabian people, no more than the Huns, the Tatars or the Turks have been.

Bessarabia cannot feel towards Russia — any Russia — differently from what is felt by Poland, Finland, Esthonia, Latvia, etc.

#### b) HAS BESSARABIA BEEN RUSSIANISED?

The statements of Russian writers and scholars themselves, like Zasciuk, Casso, Tikhomirof, Kouropatkine (see chapter II), show clearly that such an assertion is absolutely contrary to facts.

True enough, part of the Boyar families of Bessarabia (as, for instance, the Kroupensky, Purichkievitch, Kristi, Cantacuzene families) were Russianised.

But what country in the world has not had its renegades and traitors? It is a well known fact that at all times and in all countries the upper classes, on the promise of some privileges, have always gone over to the conqueror.

But the masses, and especially the peasants of Bessarabia have religiously kept the tongue, the faith, the customs and the traditions of their ancestors.

Moreover, everybody knows that never in the course of centuries has Russia been capable of russianising any foreign people, however backward and uncivilised it might be.

This is what the school-inspector of the Ufa district, M. Troitsky, has to say on the subject :

« We had been hoping to convert the Mahommedans (Kirguizes) by sending Russians to them. On the contrary, the Russians hardly settled there were assimilated by the others to such a degree that they forgot all about fasting and ate horse meat during the great Russian Lent. »

*Russia and the allogeous nations*, by Inorodetz, page 7.



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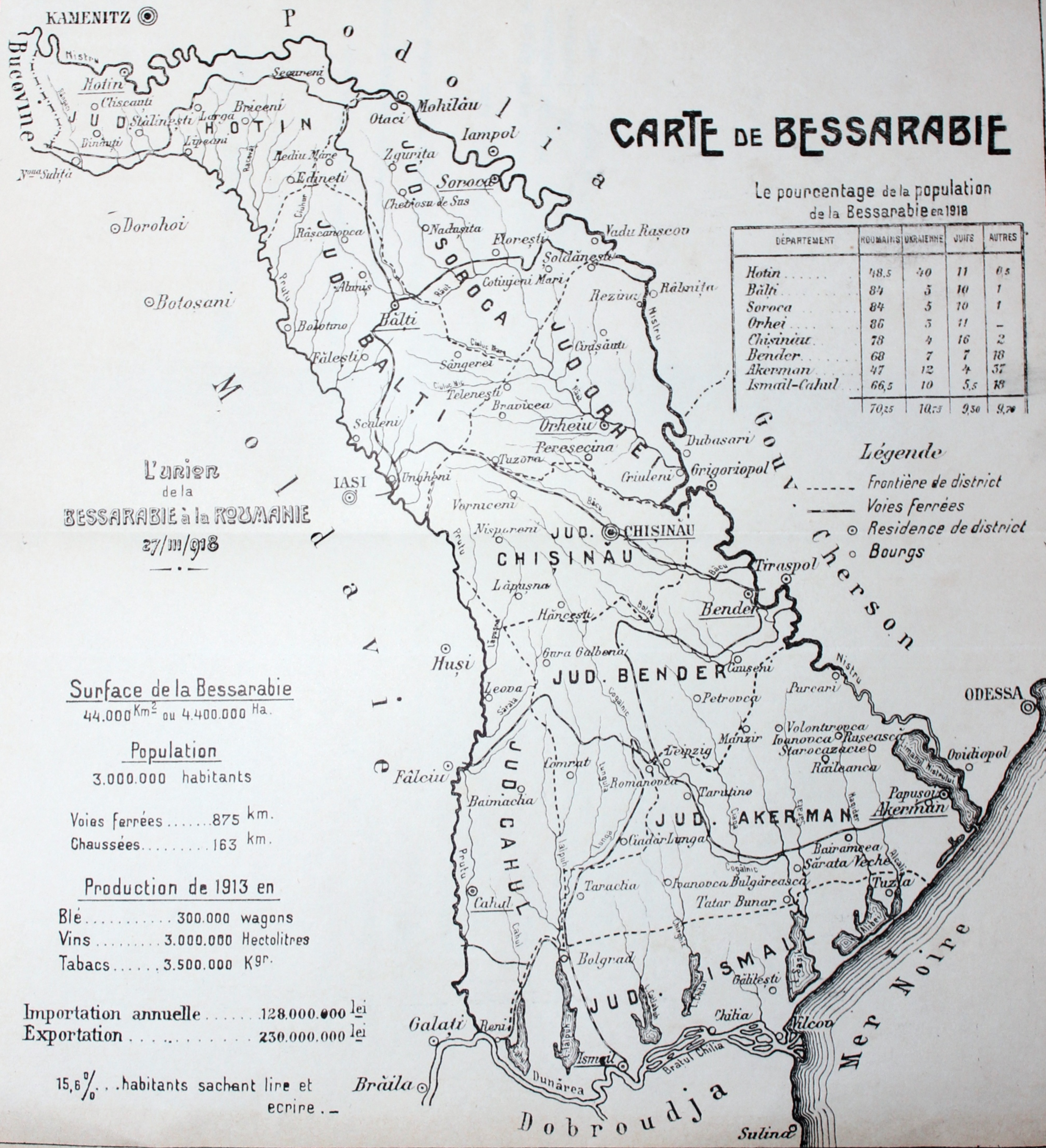
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DES ARTS ET DES SPORTS  
24, RUE MILTON, PARIS-IX<sup>e</sup>

## BY THE SAME AUTHOR

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1. — *Bessarabia under the Russian regime*, Paris, 1919.
2. — *The Union of Bessarabia with its mother-country, Roumania*, Paris, 1919.
3. — *Movement and increase of population in Bessarabia from 1812 to 1918*, Paris, 1919.
4. — *The economic state of Bessarabia*, Paris, 1920.
5. — *Chronology of the most important events in the life of Bessarabia from its annexation to Russia (1812) until the ratification of the Union of Bessarabia with Roumania by the Constituent Assembly of Greater Roumania (December 29 1919)*, Paris, 1920.





# CARTE DE BESSARABIE

Le pourcentage de la population  
de la Bessarabie en 1918

DÉPARTEMENT	ROUMAINS	UKRAÏENNE	JUIFS	AUTRES
Hotin	48,5	40	11	0,5
Bălți	84	5	10	1
Soroca	84	5	10	1
Orhei	86	5	11	—
Chisinau	78	4	16	2
Bender	68	7	7	18
Akerman	47	12	4	37
Ismail-Cahul	66,5	10	5,5	18
	70,25	10,75	9,50	9,70

- Légende**
- Frontière de district
  - Voies ferrées
  - Residence de district
  - Bourgs

L'union  
de la  
**BESSARABIE à la ROUMANIE**  
27/11/1918

**Surface de la Bessarabie**  
44.000 Km<sup>2</sup> ou 4.400.000 Ha.

**Population**  
3.000.000 habitants

Voies ferrées ..... 875 km.  
Chaussées ..... 163 km.

**Production de 1913 en**  
Blé ..... 300.000 wagons  
Vins ..... 3.000.000 Hectolitres  
Tabacs ..... 3.500.000 Kgr.

Importation annuelle ..... 128.000.000 lei  
Exportation ..... 230.000.000 lei

15,6% . . . habitants sachant lire et  
ecrire . . .





LASHING MOLDAVIANS (ROUMANIANS) WITH THE RUSSIAN KNOUT





The fortress of Hotin was build by Alexander the Good, Prince of Moldavia (1400-1435) and restored by Stephen the Great (1457-1503) to protect the country against the Tatars and the Poles. The ruins that can be seen to-day are what is left of that fortress which had been rebuilt and occupied by the Turks.





A BESSARABIAN PEASANT